## BATTLE IN THE AIR OVER THE FRENCH TRENCHES

Pen Picture by One Who Saw of What Happens When the Rival Fleets Grapple in the Central Blue

William T. Martin, the young American newspaper man who won the French war cross for valor and whose thrilling stories of life in the trenches are lamiliar to readers of THE SUNDAY SUN, is back at front. His vacation in America is ended and this is the first of ars letters since his return.

## By WILLIAM T. MARTIN

ROM his secret place among the ruins near the top of the hill overlooking the first line the soldier peers far out into the territory of the Germans. Down below, near the base of the hill re his own trenches. A little distance further on he can indistinctly make out the network of the enemy's lines.

stationed on the hill and being unable to locate, have long since completed the destruction of the little village at the summit. The observer has a little cars. There are two in a machine, deep dugout where he can take she'ter pilot and observer. In a time like this when German shells fall too near.

Looking out over the land on the other side all seems barren of life. Near by is part of a little village, a remnant the French have left standing-their village-and it too seems head. The trenches at the base of the hill lose individuality in the distance n a general network that runs right and left. Some distance to the left it broken by a river. Nets are stretched across it. The German batteries are far in the rear and out of sight.

To hide their movements from the French the Germans bring their equipment up in the nighttime or behind screened roads. Here and there at long intervals the wind or a shell has made break in the cloth or the brush of the screens, and before the Germans have had time to repair them the solder looking through can occasionally see a wagon hurrying along, an automobile laden with supplies, a staff car rushing past filled with officers or soldiers on their way to or from the trenches.

Sometimes an ambulence dashes by. They usually rush up after the deep trenches, mines being thrown from one trench to another, or after the sharp fusillades of exploding grenades or rifle fire between attacks. Someimes the watcher can almost tell the number of wounded. The ambulances are noiseless from his distance, but now and then he can hear the long drawn out rumbling of the heavy wagons as they jog along.

behind the lines, often he can see the projectiles burst, hear the deep, roaring crashes and see their terrific mark an acceleration in the distant. The noise loses volume, softens, and From over the barrier, high in the rumbling of the wagons as they roll as the machines soar away toward the sky, three planes suddenly appear

peasants work on. For a long time back. It will be a battle in the air, an old white horse, useless in its age | Left behind at the grounds are sevand forsaken, has grazed away among eral machines. They are there for the eye, but the speed at which they the soldter marks its escapes, its fearthere is something of a feeling of re- hear the faint hum of the engines now. lattonship.

ardly to move. They float about, ing has ceased, and everywhere there anish and reappear in a sky broken the soldier can discern the various flock of birds flying around in the sky. they seem to increase in number. types without his glasses. They look like a flock of birds in the heavers.

They are almost invisible to the naked eve, so the lookout reaches for guns

to lose. i- he rusnes to his dugout, to the fleet is filled with them. dephone and works a special coning craft.

Back at the grounds are several long are working away at capacity. julet and there is little sign of life. ment. one of the little houses and disappear around the ends of the barrier they ing of material can be heard.

Darrier marking the range of the swiftest the crash of the timber and the break- in the service. So he manages to keep at the head of the French column as he field open almost simultaneously len rush about in feverish activity es word goes around that the Germans

From the great sheds along the field wy, awkward looking planes roll out men tugging away around them. Soon there is a whole line of them in

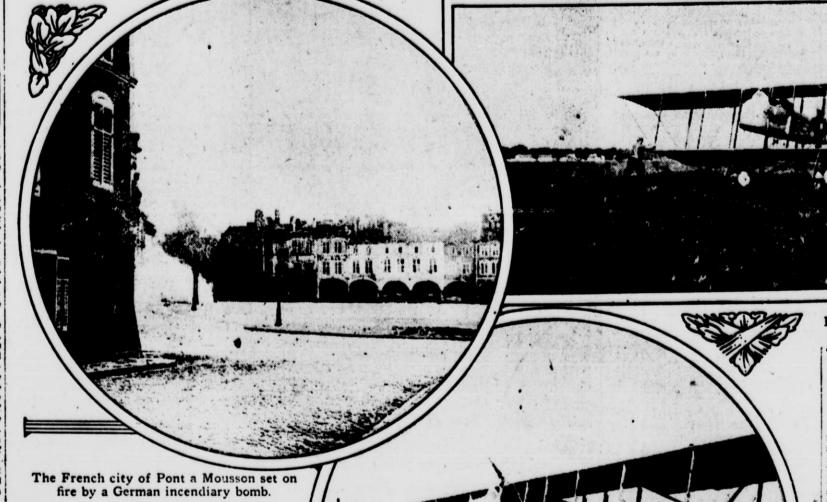
a gigantic machine gun. It is deafening. From the other end of the line a machine wabbles unsteadily under the impulse of a roaring motor.

The noise is intensified as another machine gives a little shiver and a mechanic from the rear of it crawls out frem under a long support running back to the rudder as the propeller starts up, becomes almost invisible, and its engine buzzes away.

At different points along the line the The Germans, knowing lookouts are all of the giant machines throb under the roar of the motors that consumer everything with sound. The whole

> the latter is a handy man. Concealed almost in garments of thick fur materia; that covers their heads and the parts of their bodies visible above the little cars they are hard to recognize as men but have the appearance of foreign creatures. Looking closer the faces of the men are grim and set. The giants shaking things about them in their numbers look like things of the imagination.

Suddeply from the line comes out one of the machines; moves slowly and unsteadily over the ground, gains in





cendiary shells over the

French lines.

pop, pop of the machine guns.

the line of the trenches. They are

followed by others, and then there is a

They are the machines of the Ger-

flight. They are together now and in

their rear are the French craft-pur-

among the German fleet is a French

side and join their fellows in the rear.

Nothing is heard but the occasional

far away hum of the many motors.

The fleets have taken the form of

long string of birds migrating.

But these finally fly off to a

French field hospital station painted in mottled colors to deceive enemy air scouts.

over the ground, drawn by wild steeds surged along by frantic drivers.

Some of the fields near the trenches are worked by peasants—people fearless of death, some wishing it. The less of death, some wishing it. lotted with she I holes, but the and their orders are to turn them

sand up at spots in a devastated field the lookout intently watches the dots not far back. So far, it has escaped that now are considerably larger, have death. As shells often break around various shapes and stand out in dark the shells continue to break as before silhouette against the sky. He wonders whether his own side will send up still making their way over from the lessness. He thinks of it often, and craft to try to repulse them. He can other side.

In the meantime word has been sent to various batteries roundabout and they have orders to be on the lookout. he land he suddenly sees far over in All around it is a tense moment. Down the sky slightly above the horizon a in the trenches the soldiers of both umber of little specks that seem sides watch the oncoming fleet. Firseems to be a suppressed silence.

As the fleet reaches a position high in the air above the trenches slightly collision. As they fly around they pass on the German side suddenly there are each other, often seeming to collide, go sharp cracks and muffled reports of his glasses. He sees them distinctly over the country in back of the hill. describe vast circles in the air and now. They are aeroplanes, German There is the quick swish of some shells nachines, and he makes out a whole tearing through the air near enough two craft follow one, and then in behind freet of them. In the distance they to the hill to be heard. Then high in the pursuers come other craft they in most stationary. They float the sky in advance of the oncoming turn pursuing. craft a number of little balls of smoke ding expedition. He has seen many New puffs appear over the heavens

The little puffs dot the area of the fire at each other. nection that runs directly to the avia- sky like holes in a sieve and extend come together and the battle in the tion grounds out of sight and the gun in a great barrier that stretches away air is on. range in the rear. With all the haste on both sides of the craft in a long line. The lookout knows the batteries in the air. It falls a short distance in below and within range of the area jerks. It stops and glides along a

sheet iron, and a number of smaller seems to shake for an instant. They Some distance down it turns over, then ouses for the men. It is a village in suddenly stop in their headlong flight. itself, a little town for the men who turn sharply in different directions and work in the air. Just now everything are thrown into disorder for the mo-

several of the sheds are open at the steel would be almost instant destruc- power the engine races away as the the most daring aviators in the

momentum and bumps along to the far check in their rush. They turn out end of the field. Then, unsteadily, it this way and that and run about rises from the ground, mounts into the in different directions. They are waltrises from the ground, mounts into the air and gracefully sails away in the direction of the high hill. One by one the others follow. In a short time all passed around in the air through signal.

one watches them they seem to darr

Again at the hidden place on the hill They are too near the French mato make passage difficult for the craft

The men down in the trenches and the lookout on the hill held their together. The Germans coming over in groups are outnumbered. They split A German Taube dropping inup and run about singly, lose themselves among the French planes, and is hard to distinguish which. Against the light of the sky the craft look almost black and at The machines now are so near that their height the mass appears like

They have spread out in a great space now. It is necessary to avoid under each other and above, run exploding at different distances parallel, turn out in opposite directions come together again. Here and there

Above the faint drawnout buzz of he starcs, gliding along in regu- suddenly show out white against the the motors, resembling the droning of sky, grow larger and quickly become bees, and the dull detonations as the The observer knows it is an air splotches of yellowish white smoke, little smoke balls continue to burst comes now and then a faint pop, of them and he knows there is no time and a second later the sky in front of pop, pop, pop. It is the noise of the machine guns as the men in the planes

Súddenly a machine is seen to waver short space. Instantly, without warn-The fleet of onrushing aeroplanes ing. it dives headlong through the air. dashes madly to earth.

Half way down the propeller seems to have been twisted off, for the motor suddenly runs wild. With the tremen-To go through the cloud of fire and dous force and speed of its horse-

downward. It falls quickly and un- aviatik, graceful and speedy. Meanwhile the French planes from expectedly and darts down somewhat into the air and are making their denly bursts-into flame. Everywhere to it. numerous than those on the opposing which runs in jerks. It is a spectacle His observer in the seat behind gets each number and pocket on the play- lugubrious mementoes that were gath- articles. men go about their work with enthus hardly human. There are those in the books by the exethus hardly human. There are those in the books by the exethus hardly human. There are those in the books by the exethus hardly human. There are those in the books by the exethus hardly human. There are those in the books by the exetrunches and far back in the rear who self against the butt of the machine last week related only to crimes that
the sear bening gets each number and pocket on the playlugubrious mementoes that were gatharticles.

Hardly human. There are those in the low books by the exetrunches and far back in the rear who self against the butt of the machine last week related only to crimes that
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hardly human. There are those in the low books by the exetrunches are the low books by the exetrunche The fingers of the lookout as he holds cross themselves, salute or lift their gun fastened to a framework in front, ball was not captured by the raiders, evidence that seemed out of place in clerk of the District Attorney's office, the murderers prior to January For weeks there has been little work at the grounds on account of the bad the grounds of concetta and Gaetano Riggio, whom In

A French biplane with anti-aircraft gun mounted forward.

and gives a short pull at the trigger. ways of houses. They give little cries turns somewhat to the right and glides. They will come presently and take downward in the direction of a wood them away. The French will bury like kicks and a dozen shots crack the town, debris falls around or houses out at the rate of six hundred a fall into the street roundabout. An a sort of blue bank in the light of the craft it is hard to get an aim. The street rings wildly, a street roundabout the main street roundabout the main sunset. During the battle he took time to mark the place where the first is but a blackened mass, there is litenemy cannot shoot back, for the gun Overhead the German aircraft speed of the fallen machines crashed.

and again. The gun cracks out, shoots sky is thick with them, a dozen rounds, and is silent. The continues in this course lying amid wreckage here and there is a silent and or the sails along near the end of the discussion of the balky machines back to their server peers down over the side for the places in the sheds, closed the doors and or the balky machines back to their server peers down over the side for the places in the sheds, closed the doors and the place is again quiet and appearing in the trees and possibly for lying amid wreckage here and there the glint of something of the vansome hundreds of yards, then flies on in the street. A shell crashes into a quished machine. in the direction of his fellows. Meanwhile Guerau follows the next plane From the doors and windows into the

stightly to the left of a road, soen bomb holders under each plane still

over their eyes, faces, and their heads gest along the lines at this point. It is an important town, a couple of miles lock of the first line trenches. Civil destruction and its human freight with lans still live in it. They are those who have cared to remain.

The batteries below have now ceased to maintain the barrier of flying shell pieces, for it is useless. The planes of both sides are interspersed and their destination, a town in the French rear, leady dead. By her side is an updestination, a town in the reach tear.

They discharge their loads here through a system of communication over the street are some apples and their way to a little cake shop among themselves. It is simple to broken eggs. seems less frequent. The planes have now extended over a large area attering of birdlike objects nearest he German lines several of the craft can be seen to move away down along

back into their territory. The French, turn too and follow. They get within !

the top of a perpetual air column and the movement is something like the pitch and toss of a small boat. It is difficult to keep the machine steady.

throngs of good natured women, sol. can be left free for an instant. Except over the ground were the two air sent the toss and girch of the craft or that ran around in play, is suddenly the sudden plants distinct the side by side near the machine, they have been gathered up and now the

on his machine is arranged only to shoot upward.

Overhead the German shortalt speed of the fallen machines crashed.

Over the wood he files nearer to shoot upward.

Over the wood he files nearer to earth and comes close to the tree tops. The observer pulls the trigger again near the centre of the village and the He does not know the exact place, so Meanwhile at the grounds mech-

flying pieces of debris and smoke that thinks he sees the place a narrow hole are full and the boxes containing the The planes are still following the general line of the trenches, somewhat and children aimlessly, their hands agains the deepness of the follage. He

of the car. This releases the shell underneath, which speeds to earth on its course of destruction. There are about ten shells under each of the planes.

It takes little time. Then the German the street Amid the noise of the turn over to their own lines and sail back into their territory. The French is course of distress.

From a house along the street a young boy eludes the grasp of his elders and runs out into the street to somebody in an alleyway on the other plane was German. They are sure of that, for as it turned over on its downward rush they caught the dashes of the sun upon the mirrorlike another token probably on his war cross ribbon and possibly a promotion. They walk along in silence.

Over at the gounds the planes glide down one by one. Only a certain number can safe y alight at a time. So the falling material are cries of alarm, hopeless screams of distress. hopeless screams of distress.

When the debris settles the child is they fly around, looking moustrous in car back in the wood.

Maurice-Farman type of biplane much used by the French.

## The Observer Sees Specks in the Sky, Then the Alarm, the Hurried Ascent and the Thrilling Clash Aloft

missing. From the heap comes thick their nearness, in their grace and apsmoke, a dust cloud and that is all, parent sureness they seem like great A woman springs out from cover near birds of prey about to swoop down by toward the ruins. She tears her upon some imaginary object out in the by toward the ruins. She tears her hands at jagged pieces of things, as they hand subject the she tugs and pulls away at the heap. She is silent now, and a little later she is forced away by several men she is forced away by several men who have run out after her.

cleared, and gradually the clouds of move hastiy, for they are at auxious dust and smoke settle. The people to know if any of their number has stand around for a while where they fallen. are, stupefied in a measure, collect-ing themselves. They look out and a place where others are gathered. peer up at the sky. Seeing nothing. They come over with the same questhey come out into the street. Soon tion on their lips, bard to recognize in workmen start to clear away the dead their great garments of the air. and the debris. Soldiers and civilians, unhurt, are now themselves again for the most part. They kurry about the around, two or three talk in louder houses, neighbors are gathered to- it is an incident of routine. gether and here and there are per- Meanwhile the location of the two

have given up the chase, are swirling grounds on their way to the places to about in great circles and striking out take care of what remains of the for the grounds. Guerau is one of the wreckage. Inside of each is a pine box. last to give up. He returns to his own | Over in the woods soldiers stand territory through shrapnel that flies around a heap of bent and frail look-

knows he can maintain his place under the range of the German guns and that fills the senses and makes talking one of the graceful objects floating the range of the German guns and his antagorist, for his machine is a shells from the batteries break among fast one. But there is great danger that any instant the enemy craft imight suddenly drop as it strikes one of the frequent air shafts. As it is they seem to be flying continually on the top of a perpetual air column and they fly about in the air.

The solders and makes talking impossible, they seem to be something apart from the world below. They further and they fly about in the air.

Down in the town, where a few minutes before was quiet, among the other own. It consists of twists of the head and they fly about in the air.

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The soldiers say little and look at the first own. They have head and they fly about in the air.

The soldiers say little and look at the first own. They have head and they fly about in the air.

The soldiers are a short time ago.

His observer aims the gun at the litto have had time to seek refuge crowd
Gueran follows the others toward ings that several minutes ago fived in
the car amid the wings of the other craft
cellars or huckle together in the doorthe grounds. A minute or so later he

who have cared to remain.

As the Germans fly over they hastily drop their shells. They are pursued and they cannot reach their destination, a town in the French rear.

broken eggs.

the machine was one of their own.
The other plane was German. They

field is sufficiently cleared again. As the little window in the bottom of his

who have run out after her.

There is silence again, the sky has spring onto the ground. But they

heaps to their destinations, seemingly pitch and that is all. The Germans to make up for lost time. At places have lost two machines and they are in the town walling comes from pleased with the day's work. To them

acroplanes has been ascertained. Up in the air the French planes already two motor vans have left the

ing things. It is a heap of slender rods, The ground below looks hazy. They splintered woodwork, patches of canare too far up for much observation. Vas and some bent and battered tin.
As the two men are corried along, all The engine has sunk into the ground. noise drowned in the roar of the motor It is difficult to imagaine that this was

he sails along near the end of the aniclans and orderlies have pushed are being carefully gone over and de-

back of the first line trenches. Civil-lans still live in it. They are those

Shells continue to crash down, and the town shakes again and again.

In the middle of the street, near again. They circle over the wood planes. This makes his fifth aeroplane

## MARVELLOUS CROOKED ROULETTE WHEEL

sound of the machine guns and the

is Guerau. He is known as one of years and which were carted off to be ney's office, is now ashes.

rushes through the air at terrific

the sky in tense exchement.

Separately, A little later the cracking of the works its breaking can be heard. Then the little breaking can be heard. Then the later the cracking of the works its breaking can be heard. Then the later the cracking of the works its breaking can be heard. Then the later the cracking of the sky in tense exchement.

Separately, A little later the cracking of the works its breaking can be heard. Then the later the cracking of the sky in tense exchement.

Some distance before they reach the sky in tense exchement.

Some distance before they reach the siril a baby carriage. The sky in tense exchement.

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Some distance before the works in the siril a baby carriage. The sky in tense exchement.

Some distance before the works in the siril a baby carriage. The sky in tense exchement.

Some distance before the works in the siril a baby carriage. The siril a baby

roulette could have found food man arrestel for having this wheel in 1913, when he and his nurse, Emily 281 West Twenty-first street on Febfor thought at the Criminal his possession, pleaded guilty to a Roode, were run over and killed by ruary 14, 1918, by her father, Janaes and was fined an automobile. Tony Duso, who was Purcell, now serving a life sentence; Courts Building on Wednesday. \$100. The wheel, after being used as in the automobile, was tried for mur- of Kaspar Vatarian, a Syrian priest, One of the foremost of the pursuers of Guerau. He is known as one of vears and which were carted off to be

extensive field, now vacant, is shut up.
Suddenly several men rush out of

Suddenly several men rush out of suddenly several men rush out of suddenly several men rush out of suddenly several men rush out of sud ered, small, and one of the swiftest in the service. So he manages to keep at the head of the French column as viewpoint of the player who was so unat the ends of the sheds facing at the ends of the sheds facing will meet the fire of other batteries will meet the fire of other batteries along the line, also warned to be a rename of the fallen plane and craft dart only several hundred feet in back of the fallen plane and craft dart only several hundred feet in back of the fallen plane and there across each others a German machine. From below it had all been used as evidence to the short of the sky. fortunate as to try his "luck" with this might be theoretically perfect, it was Katzenstein was sentenced to prison trunk in which her body was found in lie is rather far in advance now and prodigy of deception it looked like any rather too complicated to be a reliable for bribery, but died while his case an Eighth avenue chop sucy restaua German machine. From below it raiders wrenched it from its fastenings And the experts doubted too that any The clothes that were destroyed if Leon Ling, the missing Cainess

burned by the Health Department was | Experts who viewed the magnetic of the shipments of meat which Simon and of Patrick O'Brien (Paddy

as word goes around that the Germans the craft mount higher into the sky, paths as before. Suddenly, as best almost looks as though he is within in a gambling house in West Forty-similar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. It is an fifth street in 1910 the swindle was eximilar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in must have distance of it. almost looks as though he is within in a gambling house in West Forty- similar device had ever been actually had all been used as evidence in mur- taxed with this murder, is found bewicked enough instrument to cheat the overcoat worn by Stanford White on trief Attorney will have these things Bored into the under surface of the dictates of Dame Fortune and was the night he was shot by diarry Thaw to show to the jury, but long ago the the grounds in the rear have mounted like a flash out of the sky, for it sud- speed, but Guerau gradually draws up wheel were holes, in each of which an perfectly good evidence in the hands there was the revolver that Thaw used, police gave up hope of capturing the into the air and are making their denly bursts into flame. Everywhere to it, way toward the smoke cloud. It is seems to be a great silence. It is only He draws nearer and long, was set. All around the rim of Thaw case being officially ended the of Herman Resemblal also remain to also a fleet and the machines are more broken by the noise of the engine, finally reaches a position in under it. the wheel were these magnets, one for men, revolvers, stilettoes and other county had no further use for these it attic, as the articles taken away

In addition to the electric wheel